

HONORING ALBERT M. ELÍAS

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 22, 2015*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Albert M. Elías, who sadly passed away on October 16, for over 60 years of service to organized labor and to the progressive political community in Tucson and Pima County as a member of the International Typographical Union/Communications Workers of America Local 7026.

Albert M. Elías represented the highest ideals of the labor movement. While others talk about the need for a strong labor movement to protect and enhance the lives of working people, Albert, for more than 60 years, worked to advance these goals. While others have talked about how Pima County and southern Arizona need progressive political success to empower the ordinary and disadvantaged among us, Albert worked long hours helping politicians and movements advocate on behalf of these people.

Using the printing skills he honed for most of his life, the knowledge he gained over more than six decades of how the printed word can help realize worthy goals, and the personal contacts his honesty, integrity and goodwill forged, Albert achieved much and has helped others achieve even more in advancing political movements, and the labor movement in particular.

Albert, a fourth-generation Tucson native, joined the International Typographical Union of his maternal grandfather Francisco S. Moreno in January 1954 and committed himself to a career in the printing trade. Albert believed that union membership would improve the professional quality of his work as a printer, and enable him to develop meaningful, long-term relationships in his community that would benefit himself and his family, as well as his union brothers and sisters. Union membership, he believed, also would provide him with better income and with vacations and holidays off to spend quality time with his family. It was Albert's goal to provide his children with the wherewithal to excel in education through high school and go on to college if they desired. Time proved Albert to be correct. All three of the children of he and his wife, Viola Baine, are college graduates who are serving others in pursuit of their careers.

Albert and his sister Aida Elías, the children of Alberto Spring Elías and Ermelinda Moreno Elías, always lived their lives as Christians and were dedicated to their religious faith. Albert maintained an active lifetime role in his Roman Catholic parish, based at St. Augustine's Cathedral in downtown Tucson. He served for many years as a member of its Parish Council.

Albert's interest in the printing trade went back to his childhood in the 1930s. His grandfather Moreno had begun publishing the Spanish language *El Tucsonense* weekly newspaper as a member of the Typographical Union in 1915, but he died an early death in 1929. *El Tucsonense* continued publication under ownership of his wife, Rosa E. Moreno, and with the help of her five children—Ermelinda, Gilberto, Federico, Arturo and Elías. Before Albert's 10th birthday he was delivering *El Tucsonense* by bicycle to the Latino

barrios that dominated much of downtown Tucson. He worked his way into the print shop during his years at Tucson High School to be a "printer's devil," sweeping the floors, cleaning presses, and remelting the lead used to make ingots for the shop's linotype machines.

After graduating from Tucson High School in January 1946, Albert went to the Frank Wiggins Trade School in Los Angeles to learn more about printing. After completing those studies in 1948, Albert went to work in the print shop that published *El Tucsonense*, now being run by his uncle Arturo Moreno. That ended in late 1951 when Albert was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served in the infantry for two years before being honorably discharged. After his discharge, Albert returned to Tucson. But instead of rejoining *El Tucsonense*, Albert sought membership in the Typographical Union as a journeyman, skipping apprenticeship because of his experience. His skills earned him a position as a linotype operator in early 1954 with the Tucson daily newspapers, *The Arizona Daily Star* and *Tucson Citizen*.

A bitter and ultimately unsuccessful Typographical Union strike at the *Star-Citizen* in 1966, over job-depleting automation and the companies' rejection of the union's demand for a pension plan, ended Albert's 12-year stint with the daily newspapers. Fortuitously for Albert, *El Tucsonense* was in the process of folding and he and a partner, Oscar Araiza, bought his uncle's printing shop. Araiza retired in 1991 and Albert ran *Old Pueblo Printers* alone thereafter.

Upon taking control of the business in 1966, Albert and his partner began doing printing work for Tucson-area labor union locals and Democratic Party candidates for political office. One of the first campaigns for which Albert's shop printed the political literature was one of the late U.S. Representative Morris K. Udall's bids for office. Udall continued to use his services after that, as did Robert Kennedy for his assassination-truncated 1968 presidential campaign. Albert printed campaign materials for Raúl Castro, who was elected as the first Latino governor of Arizona; for Ed Pastor, who was elected as the first Latino Congressman from Arizona; and for longtime Pima County Supervisors Sam Lena and Dan Eckstrom. I, too, came to Albert for my printing needs when I first launched what became a 12-year stint on the Tucson Unified School District Board. I continued to use Albert's services through 13 years on the Pima County Board of Supervisors and, finally, on my 2002 bid for Congress.

During his career, Albert supported labor leader César Chávez of the United Farm Workers, he supported the efforts of local Latino activists to get their fair share of federal funds to improve the homes and neighborhoods of their people, and he supported a landmark lawsuit forcing Tucson Unified School District to desegregate its schools. Albert was always fighting battles against those who seek to use their financial influence to their own advantage—and at the expense of ordinary working people.

Albert M. Elías deserves special recognition, honor and respect for his six decades of union membership—and for his meritorious achievements during that time on behalf of working people and the less fortunate of Pima County and Southern Arizona. We will miss him dearly.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 22, 2015*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 557, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

CELEBRATING TAP'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 22, 2015*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, community action agencies in the United States have established a history of giving individuals a much-needed hand-up out of poverty. Whether it's assistance with housing, finding a job, providing early childhood education, or even offering help to those recovering from abuse or addictions, community action agencies are the "Golden Rule" at work. I wish to honor an agency located in the Sixth Congressional District of Virginia that is actively fulfilling this mission.

Originally founded as Total Action Against Poverty by Cabell Brand, Total Action for Progress—known in Roanoke, Virginia simply as TAP—is celebrating its 50th anniversary as the Roanoke Valley's sheltering umbrella. Cabell Brand saw poverty was due to more than just an individual's financial circumstances. He believed that in order to be a full participant in society, an individual needed opportunities to improve one's life. A half-century later, Cabell Brand's vision of an organization that would allow someone to "TAP Into Hope" remains at work.

Cabell Brand met with Sargent Shriver when he was planning to form an organization that could grow from the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. A partnership in the community formed the non-profit that came to be called TAP, offering assistance to low-income individuals living in the area. Community action, the likes of which Brand and Shriver dreamed of, came to life in the Roanoke Valley and was embraced by the local governments.

Since taking office, I have come to understand the benefits that community action agencies provide to the downtrodden. In turn, I have enjoyed every opportunity I have had to work with this organization as they have displayed the "can-do" spirit that has helped transform TAP into one of our country's most successful community action organizations.

From its roots in Roanoke, TAP now serves men, women, and children in 11 localities in western and southwest Virginia. The focus is on self-reliance and self-determination with TAP's dedicated staff providing a unique brand of strength. It's that strength that I came to see in Cabell Brand, in his successor Ted Edlich—who marked his retirement last year—and in Annette Lewis, the current President and CEO. I congratulate TAP on its 50th anniversary, and I look forward to continuing to tell its story as a model for the good that can come from a sense of hope.